

KCA TOOL BOX TALK: Overhead Power Lines



TEAMWORK
IMPROVES SAFETY

Signatures

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Overhead power lines at construction sites can be particularly dangerous for construction workers, especially when equipment such as cranes, cherry pickers, and high lifts are used at the site.

Here is an Example: Lawrence was part of a crew that was installing steel roof beams on a school building using a boom crane. He was standing by the joists, waiting to hook the beams to the chain slings, when the crane operator swung the slings toward him. The slings touched the power line, became energized, and sent electricity through Lawrence. An ambulance rushed him to the hospital but he was pronounced dead on arrival.

1. Do you know anyone who was injured or electrocuted when a crane contacted an overhead power line? If so, what happened?
2. Could an electrocution involving a crane and power line happen at your worksite?

Preventing Electrocutions from Overhead Power Lines:

- Request the power company to shut off the energy to overhead power lines, if possible, where equipment will be used nearby.
- Keep cranes and loads 20 feet from power lines.
- Use only non-conductive tag lines.
- Operate machines at a slower rate of speed and use a spotter.
- Be careful when around spans of power lines since wind can cause them to sway sideways, reducing the clearance between the crane and the lines.
- Be cautious when traveling over uneven ground that could cause the machine to reach the power lines.
- Keep all personnel well away from the machine whenever it is near overhead power lines.

For more information visit OSHA REGULATIONS: 1926.1408

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Teamwork Improves Safety!

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